

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 IO-14 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /144 W

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R 151633Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2641

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1966

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, WB

SUBJECT: PROTEST OVER USE OF HARNACK HOUSE BY PROFESSORIAL GROUP

1. LEFTIST WEST GERMAN MAGAZINE KONKRET RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLE, ENTITLED "CONSPIRACY AT THE CLUB," WHICH ACCUSED US ARMY OF AIDING "ULTRA CONSERVATIVE" GROUP OF FREE UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS TO ESTABLISH "EXCLUSIVE REACTIONARY CIRCLE." ARTICLE RECOUNTED THAT GROUP OF PROFESSORS, IN SEARCH OF MEETING PLACE SAFE FROM LEFTIST INVADERS, TURNED FOR HELP TO U.S. MINISTER, WHO ARRANGED FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP IN HARMACK HOUSE (OFFICERS' OPEN MESS) FOR LEADER OF GROUP THUS PERMITTING RENT-FREE SPACE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR REGULAR MEETINGS. ARTICLE NOTED ALSO THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE ALLIED OCCUPATION POWERS WERE INVITED TO JOIN IN THE MEETINGS.

2. EARLY IN NOVEMBER, MINISTER AND AMERIKA HAUSE DIRECTOR RECEIVED COPIES OF LETTER FROM GROUP OF TEACHING ASSISTANTS AT JOHN F. KENNEDY INSTITUTE (FREE UNIVERSITY) DRAWING ATTENTION TO KONKRET-ARTICLE AND EXPRESSING "GRAVE CONCERN THAT AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ARE GETTING INVOLVED IN GERMAN CONTROVERSY AND ARE UNKNOWINGLY

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BEING USED BY ONE GROUP FOR ITS OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES."

LETTER WARNED THAT "WITH POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN UNIVERSITY MATTERS IN WEST BERLIN, POLITICAL CONFLICTS MAY SHARPEN AND AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS MAY BECOME THE TARGET OF NEW VIOLENT PROTESTS." LETTERS RECEIVED HERE INDICATED COPIES HAD BEEN SENT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, USIA DIRECTOR, SENATORS FULBRIGHT, MANSFIELD AND KENNEDY, REPRESENTATIVE MORGAN, AND AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND.

3. FACTS OF CASE ARE SIMPLE. MINISTER DID RECEIVE REQUEST FROM PROFESSOR WOLFRAM FISCHER FOR USE OF MEETING SPACE IN HARNACK HOUSE, WHICH IS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED NEXT DOOR TO FREE UNIVERSITY. THIS WAS HANDLED AS PERFECTLY NORMAL ROUTINE REQUEST, AND HONORARY MEMBERSHIP WAS GRANTED PROFESSOR FISCHER WITHOUT ANY INTENT TO TAKE SIDES IN CURRENT UNIVERSITY CONTROVERSIES. HARNACK HOUSE, A PRIVATE CLUB, IS AT LIBERTY TO ACCORD HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO WHOMSOEVER IT PLEASES, AND FACILITIES ARE FREQUENTLY USED BY OUTSIDE GROUPS. MOREOVER, GROUP OF PROFESSORS IN QUESTION CONSISTS OF WELL-KNOWN AND HIGHLY RESPECTED INDIVIDUALS, WHO ARE FRIENDLY TO U.S. AND HAVE ALWAYS HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH U. S. MISSION.

4. WE SEE NO NEED TO DIGNIFY THE FORM LETTER FROM ASSISTANTS WITH REPLY, BUT ADDRESSEES MAY WISH TO DRAW ON FOREGOING IN RESPONSE TO ANY INQUIRIES. KLEIN

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